

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01688 142113Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1688

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM CONGRESSMAN DIGGS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, MASS, PFOR
SUBJECT: AID TO ZAIRE

REF: A) STATE 81350, B) STATE 82491

1. DO NOT APPRECIATE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION EVIDENCED
BY REFTEL (A) WHICH WAS REALLY A COURTESY NOTICE OF
INTENT. IF CONSULTATION IS TO BE CREDIBLE THERE MUST
BE A GENUINE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND RELEVANT INTELLIGENCE
MADE AVAILABLE.

2. THE GEOPOLITICAL ROLE OF ZAIRE DEMANDS THE
CONTINUING ATTENTION OF ALL WHO ARE COMMITTED TO
JUSTICE, PEACE, PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS IN AFRICA. TO
THAT END I CONCUR IN YOUR PRESME THAT A LIMITED
RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM GOZ FOR AID IS JUSTIFIED.

3. HOWEVER, THE FORM AND EXTEND OF SUCH AID SHOULD
CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A. IF IN FACT LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE KATANGA
MOVEMENT IS EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY
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ACQUIESCENCE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT,
IT SERVES TO UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR USG TO INSIST
UPON WITHDRAWAL OF DESTABILIZING FORCES IN THE
NORTHERN PART OF ANGOLA, THE RESIDUALS OF FNLA,
FLEC AND ITS ALLIES STILL PERATING EITHER DIRECTLY
OR BY THE ACQUIESCENCE OF GOZ.

B. THE FAILURE OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH GOA, DESPITE THE INVITATION OF THE LATTER AND THE SUCCESS OF OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS IN CABINDA THROUGH GULF OIL, IS AN IMPORTANT OMISSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANGOLA'S SELF CONFIDENCE AND CONTRIBUTES TO WESTERN CONFUSION OF COMMUNISM WITH AFRICAN NATIONALISM. A DESTABLIZED ANGOLA WILL CONTINUE TO BE A THREAT TO PEACE AND PROSSERITY.

C. MOBUTU'S RECENT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO U.S. AID DURING CURRENT CRISIS AS INADEQUATE SHOWS LITTLE RECOGNITION FOR ALL THAT U.S. HAS AND CONTINUES TO DO FOT GOZ, I.E., THE KATANGA CRISIS OF 1960; MOBILIZING CREDITORS TO RESCHEDULE AND EASE THE BURDEN OF GOZ DEPT SERVICE, SOME OF WHICH INVOLVED FINANCING ILL ADVISED PROJECTS; MULTI-MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR GRANT AID, PEACE CORPS PROJECTS, SECURITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PLUS MULTI-MILLION DOLLARS OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

D. THE ABOMINABLE FAILURE OF THE SO-CALLED ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, SAID TO BE 20,000 STRONG, TO OVERCOME KATANGA FORCES WHICH RELIABLE ESTIMATES AMOUNTS TO ONLY 3 OR 4 THOUSAND. ACCORDING TO OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE OF EXTERNAL INTERVENTION OR SUPPLMENTATION OF KATANGA FORCES EXCEPT FOR A FEW MERCENARIES OR ADVENTURERS. THEREFORE IS THIS NOT AN INTERNAL SITUATION, PRINCIPALLY A RETURN OF A SELF-EXILED CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIGENOUS COMPONENT OF ZAIRE RATHER THAN AN INVASION OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS? AS LONG AS THIS QUESTION REMAINS CLOUDY, INTERVENTION DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARDS OF OAU, UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES.

E. WHY DID GOZ FEEL OBLIGATED TO APPEAL FOR MOROCCAN OR OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS? WHAT ASSURANCES DO WE HAVE THAT THE IMCOMPETENCE, FEAR AND CORRUPTION WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE ZAIRIAN AMRED FORCES WILL NOT CONTINUE, RESULTING IN MORE FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS WITH ALL THE DANGERS INHERENT THEREIN?

F. WHAT KIND OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE SENT? WHAT PROVISIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR REORGANIZATION AND RETRAINING FO THE ZAIRIAN AMRED FORCES? WHY IS REPROGRAMMING AND ACCELLERATION NECESSARY FOR GOZ REQUESTS MADE PRIOR TO THE CRISIS? WHY NOT REASSESS JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE WHOLE PACKAGE OF U.S.

PROPOSALS FOR ZAIRE IN VIEW OF THE LATTER'S WASTE
AND MISGUIDED PRIORITIES? UNTIL THESE ISSUES ARE
ADDRESSED SATISFACTORILY, I URGE YOU TO MOVE
CAUTOUSLY AND REDUCE PROPOSED LEVEL OF FUNDING
TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM THAT WILL REFLECT USG
CONCERN BUT YIELD THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
RESOLVING THIS MATTER TO THE ZAIRIAN AND OTHER
RELEVANT INTERESTS. I WILL NOT SUPPORT AND WILL
FIGHT AGAINST ANY FURTHER USG ASSISTANCE WHICH IS
NOT PRECISELY WITHIN THE AFOREMENTIONED CRITERIA. JAMES

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